

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 2 (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid ~~encoding an isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2~~ comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 3 (cancelled

Claim 4 (original) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 2.

Claim 5 (original) A host cell comprising the expression vector of Claim 4.

Claim 6 (original) A method for producing an isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, which comprises the steps of:

(1) culturing the host cell of Claim 5 under a condition suitable for the expression of the polypeptide; and

(2) recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

Claim 7 (withdrawn) An antibody specifically binding to the polypeptide of Claim 1.

Claim 8 (withdrawn) The antibody of Claim 7 is a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody.

Claim 9 (withdrawn/cancelled) A method for detecting the presence of an isolated nucleic acid of claim 2 for diagnosing T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma ~~encoding an isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2~~ in a mammal, which comprises the steps of:

(1) extracting total RNA from a sample obtained from the mammal;

(2) amplifying the RNA by reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) to obtain a cDNA sample; and

(3) detecting whether the nucleic acid is obtained.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9 further comprising the step of detecting the amount of the amplified cDNA sample.

Claim 12 (withdrawn) A method for detecting the presence of an isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 in a mammal, which comprises the steps of contacting the antibody of Claim 7 with protein samples extracted from the mammal, and detecting whether an antibody-antigen complex is formed.

Claim 13 (withdrawn) The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of detecting the amount of the antibody-antigen complex.

Claim 14 (withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, wherein the antibody-antigen complex is detected by Western blot approach.

Claim 15 (withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, which is useful in diagnosing T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma.